

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
APPROVED BY NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 025645

R 142215Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 112571

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING MAY 14, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. IN VIEW OF THE REPORT THAT KING HUSSEIN IS GOING
TO BE GETTING AIR COVER FROM THE SYRIANS, DOES THE UNITED
STATES HAVE ANY SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT SENDING HAWK MISSILES
TO JORDAN?

A. IN THE FIRST PLACE, I HAVE SEEN PRESS REPORTS OF THIS
ARRANGEMENT WITH SYRIA. WE CERTAINLY HAVE RECEIVED NO
OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF IT. AND IN ANSWER TO YOUR SECOND
QUESTION, NO, I DON'T BELIEVE WE HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT
THAT DECISION.

Q. IT WOULD MAKE NO DIFFERENCE? BECAUSE SECRETARY KISS-
INGER SAID YESTERDAY THAT WE FELT THAT WE SHOULD BE THE MAIN
SUPPLIER AND THAT WOULD HELP TO MOTIVATE A CONTINUING

MODERATE COURSE BY THE JORDANIANS. WOULD THAT HOLD TRUE
IF THEY WERE ALSO GETTING SUPPLIES WHICH WOULD BE RUSSIAN
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SUPPLIES FROM THE SYRIANS?

A. I THINK YOU HAVE TO MAKE JUDGMENTS ON WHAT ACTUALLY
HAPPENS. AS OF RIGHT NOW, OUR ASSESSMENT THAT JORDAN IS
ESSENTIALLY MODERATE AND IT HAS BEEN RESTRAINED IN THE
MIDDLE EAST REMAINS ACCURATE AS STATED MOST RECENTLY BY
THE SECRETARY IN KANSAS CITY.

Q. WELL, SEVERAL YEARS AGO KING HUSSEIN USED TO SAY THAT HE WOULD NEVER GO TO WAR AGAIN WITH ISRAEL UNLESS HE THOUGHT HE COULD WIN. NOW APPARENTLY THERE HAVE BEEN PLEDGES MADE THAT IF THERE WERE ANOTHER WAR, HE WOULD PARTICIPATE. DOES THAT FIT WITH THE ASSESSMENT THAT YOU JUST VOICED?

A. WHAT PLEDGES ARE YOU REFERRING TO?

A. PLEDGES THAT HE WOULD GO TO WAR IF THERE WERE ANOTHER WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. WHERE WERE THESE PLEDGES MADE?

Q. THESE HAVE BEEN REPORTED.

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF THOSE PLEDGES. AND I WOULD RECALL THAT THE HAWK MISSILE SYSTEM AFTER ALL IS AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM.

Q. DURING KING HUSSEIN'S VISIT HERE, HE SPOKE WITH EVERY HIGH OFFICIAL DEALING WITH THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. DID HE SAY ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT HIS SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH SYRIA?

A. NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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